

Care of the Dying Patient

Have you recognised your patient may die in the coming hours or days?

- Deliver the five priorities for the care of the dying

1

Recognise

- The possibility that a person may die within the next few hours or days

2

Communication

- Sensitive communication between staff, the dying person and those identified as important to them

3

Involve

- The dying person and those identified as important to them are involved in decisions about treatment and care
- To the extent the dying person wants

4

Support

- Actively explore the needs of patient and those identified as important to them

5

Plan and deliver

- An individual care plan
- Including food & drink
- Symptom control
- Psychological, spiritual and social support

Ensure you:

- Have considered potentially **reversible causes** which may be appropriately treated
- **Assess symptoms** and **prescribe** appropriate medication
- Assess need for clinically assisted **hydration and nutrition**
- **Clarify any prior expressed wishes**/review any advance care plans

Remember:

- Involve senior decision maker
- Refer to palliative care on bamboo
- RSCH EXT 3021 Bleep 8420, OOH Martlets hospital
- PRH EXT 3021, bleep 8420 OOH St Peter & St James Hospital
- If admission NOT wanted and discharge feasible contact palliative care team urgently

After assessment and conversations, use these documents found on Microguide:

1. Individualised care plan (doctor to complete - follow prompts on chart)
2. Symptom observation chart for a dying person
3. Nursing care plan for a dying person
4. Drug chart with appropriate symptom control medication